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Axtell  
Tercentenary

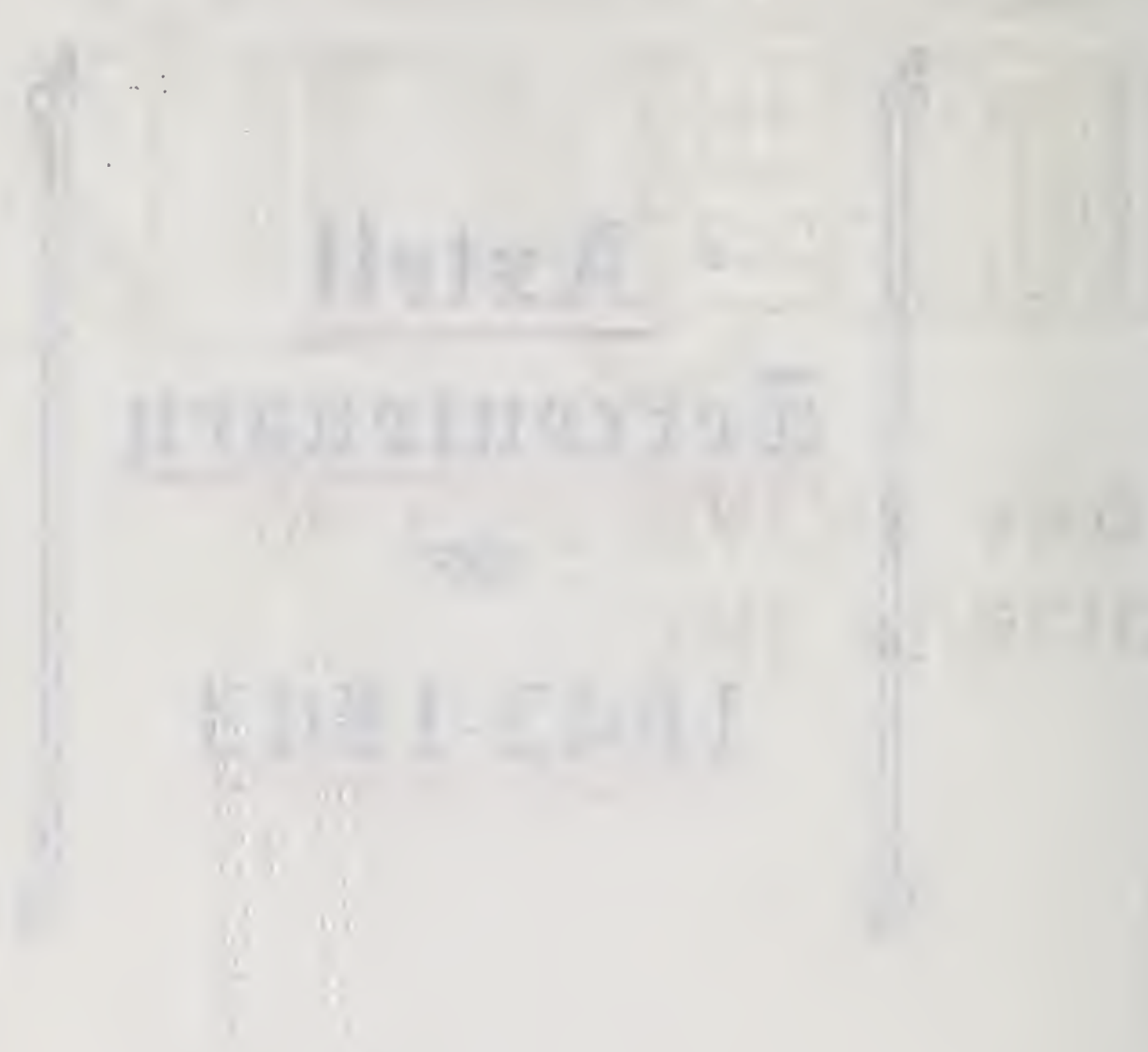


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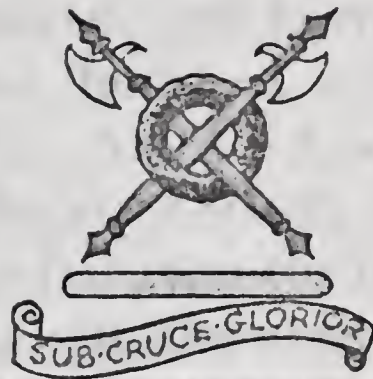
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## Gleanings from England and Elsewhere



THE name Axtell is unquestionably of Anglo-Saxon origin. The earliest records appear in English history and are found in London, Somerset, and Hertford Counties under various forms of spelling: Axail, Axell, Axtil, Axtill, Axtel, Axstell, Akstyl, Akstyle, Axstyl, Ackstyl, Ackstell, Extell, Extil, Extill, and Axtell, the last form the most generally accepted in America, with the accent on the first syllable.

Much of the early English history of the Axtell family came from Hertford, a small county lying west of Essex and north of Middlesex county, some twenty miles from London.

In 1534, Henry the VIII, King of England, having disagreed with the Pope of Rome on the divorce question, with the consent of Parliament set up an independent church of which he became head. Soon after he suppressed many of the smaller monasteries of the country. At Gatesdon, in the northwest part of the county, there was a small colony of the Augustine order, "a priori of twenty good men (Bon hommes)". This fell to the King. Clutterbuck, the historian of Hertfordshire, printed the instrument in Latin, by which the Monks acknowledged King Henry's authority in all religious matters and signed over all their property to His Majesty. The thirteenth name on the document was that of Johannes Akstyl, probably the first mention of the name of Axtell in history.





In the year of 1538, King Henry VIII of England decreed that all births, marriages and deaths should be recorded in the records of the Church. The following entries are found in the records of St. Peter's Church, Berkhamstead:

John, sonne of John Axtell, christened 1539.

William, sonne of John Axtell, christened 1541.

John Axtell, christened 1560.

Ann Axtell, christened 1565.

John, sonne of Robert Axtell, chr. 1584.

Sussanne, daughter of William, chr. 1599.

John, chr. Aug. 14, 1614.

William, chr. Dec. 1, 1616.

Thomas, chr. Jan. 26, 1619.

Daniel, (reg.) chr. May 26, 1622, sonn of William.

William, chr. June 11, 1622, ye sonn of William.

Thomas, chr. Oct. 31, 1624, ye sonn of William.

Samuel, chr. Dec. 15, 1624.

Sarah, chr. June 20, 1628, dau. of William.

Alice, chr. Mar. 27, 1637, dau. of William.

Elizabeth, dau. of John, chr. Mar. 7, 1640.

Ann, dau. of William, chr. June 6, 1641.

John, son of William, chr. Sept. 6, 1670.

William, son of William, chr. Sept. 17, 1674.

Mary, dau. of William, chr. Nov. 15, 1686.

John, son of William, chr. Dec. 26, 1700.

Mary, dau. of William, chr. Jan. 9, 1703-4.

Ann, dau. of William, chr. Jan. 26, 1707.

Elizabeth, dau. of Samuel, chr. Apr. 8, 1734.





William Axtell and Joan Phillips married 1543. (This is probably the William of Bovington whose will was probated in 1568, and the Joan may have been Joan Wells, also of Bovington, whose will dated 1584 and who appointed her son Henry Axtell executor. William of Bovington left his son John land in Berkhamstead.)

A William Axtell, who died 1637-38, mentioned in his will Thomasine, his wife, his sons, John, Thomas, William, Daniel and Samuel, and his daughter Sarah and his dead brother Henry.

Rev. Seth J. Axtell, after viewing the above from every angle, has placed the last named William as our progenitor, with children as follows:

John, christened Aug. 14, 1614.

William, christened Dec. 1, 1616.

Thomas, christened Jan. 26, 1619.

Daniel, christened May 26, 1622.

Samuel, christened Dec. 15, 1624.

Sarah, christened June 20, 1628.



THE Axtell Coat of Arms probably originated with Col. Daniel Axtell about 1648 or 1650. Burke's "General Armory", 1884, gives the description as follows: "Azure, three axes argent, handles or", a blue shield on which are three silver axes with handles of gold and heads uppermost, blades to the left. The Crest consists of two axes with handles crossed, blades uppermost; a green wreath lies on the handles where they cross, and beneath is a bar of blue and silver on which the handles rest. Below the bar is a scroll on which is "Sub cruce glorior" (I glory in the Cross.)







THE ANCESTRAL HOME



THE GATEWAY





The old ancestral home has been visited by several of the American Axtells, among them Miss Juliet Lay Axtell (784). In writing to her sister under date of October 4, 1878, she says, "I think it will be neither a Tower letter nor an Abbey letter, but a Berkhamstead letter, for yesterday I went to my ancestral home, not that I found any Axtells living over here. I think it evident that the family has died out, except those who emigrated to America. The Parish Clerk recognized the name immediately because of its frequent appearance on the Registry, and on examination of that most interesting book which gives the registries of marriages, births, and deaths from 1538 (the time when registers were first ordered kept) down to the present time, we found not only the registry of Col. Daniel Axtell, the regicide's baptism, and of Thomas Axtell's (our ancestor, I believe) but of many others. The first baptism was in 1539, of John Axtell "ye sonne of John Axtell," the name being spelled, as you see, just the same as we spell ours. Then this is followed by the baptism of William Axtell (ye sonne of John Axtell,) two years after, in 1542, but in 1543 there is recorded the marriage of William Axtell to Joan Phillips. This William must have been the brother and not the son of John. I had that old book in my hands and traced those names with my own fingers through curious chirography of three hundred years ago. The old book is wearing out and a copy on parchment has been made which I also handled. Well, he (the clerk) brought out a small history of the town to me, thinking that I might like to buy it because it speaks of the family and makes very







DANIEL AXTELL

From An Old Print





honorable mention of Col. Daniel, calling him a most remarkable man. Of course I bought it, and we have been intensely interested in reading the history of the old town which goes back to the time of the Mercian Kings, who had a castle as early as 690 A.D.

“Moreover, before I read it in the book, the clerk told me Col. Axtell occupied the castle now occupied by the Duke of Hamilton and built from the ruins of the old castle during the Protectorate of Cromwell. Having wandered around those old walls awhile, we left them and went up the grand avenue of the old spreading oaks, nearby, up hill all the way till we came out upon the courtyard of the present castle, built partly from material from the old one in the second year of Elizabeth. I wish I had a picture of it, not grand, but picturesque. The part occupied by Col. Axtell is still standing, the wing having been destroyed by fire in 1660 and never rebuilt. But everything is in perfect repair, the court-yard filled with flowers and urns.”

A few years ago Silas Blake Axtell visited the old ancestral home in Berkhamstead, England, and made several pictures of the old castle, some of which are shown in this memorial.



DANIEL Axtell, known as the “regicide” was baptised in St. Peter’s Church on the 26th day of May, 1622. His father’s name was William. He was apprenticed, when a youth, to a grocer in Welting Street, London. He was of a nervous, earnest religious turn of mind; and when the struggle of Charles I and Parliament began, he warmly espoused the cause





of the latter, chiefly on religious grounds. He enlisted in the army of Parliament and soon was promoted to Captain, Major, and Lieutenant-Colonel. In 1649, King Charles I was summoned before the high court of justice sitting in Westminster Hall, to answer to the charge of tyranny, treason, and murder. A guard was detailed from the army to preserve order and repress violence during the trial with Col. Daniel Axtell in command. In calling over the names of the court, when the crier pronounced the name Fairfax, Lady Fairfax who was in the galleries, cried out, "he has more wit than to be here," and when the charge was made against the King, she cried out again, "In the name of the people of England not a tenth part of them," Col. Axtell ordered to fire into the place whence these interruptions came, but on discovering who it was that offended withdrew his order.

In his own trial in 1660, this action of his was brought against him, and he was also charged with forcing his men and others against their will to cry out "justice" and "execution" in order to make it appear that the soldiers and people were demanding the death of the King. As a zealous supporter of Parliament he doubtless used his influence against the King, but we may surely acquit him of bloodthirsty conduct at the trial of Charles I. After his condemnation, he prayed for the false witness who testified against him. Ludlow, then the Parliament General, who afterwards commanded in Ireland, has this notice of him: "Col. Daniel Axtell has been Captain, Major, and Lieutenant Col. in a regiment of foot, in the last of which employment he had assisted in the trial and





execution of the late King. When Lieut. General Cromwell was sent by Parliament into Ireland against the rebels, the regiment in which Col. Axtell served was drawn by lot for that expedition; he cheerfully undertook the employment and for his fidelity and courage was soon preferred to the head of his regiment, and not long after was made Governor of Kilkenny. In this station he showed a more than ordinary zeal in punishing those Irish who had been guilty of murdering the Protestants."

Doubtless the Colonel was a little severe in his work; the temper of the times was cruel and vindictive, and the extreme Puritan party to which he belonged looked with intense animosity upon the Papacy and all its designs. Clarendon, the royal historian, charged him with inflicting "wanton and barbarous cruelties upon the Irish people." History, however, shows that wanton and barbarous cruelties had been inflicted only a little earlier by the Papal partisans in Ireland upon the Protestant inhabitants, and soldiers of Cromwell regarded themselves as avenging their slaughtered brethren. Col. Axtell's own view of his actions in Ireland is given in Cobbett's "Trials of State." Cobbett says of him: "having given an account when in prison to some persons for their satisfaction about his proceedings in Ireland, he said, 'I can say in humility that God did use me as an instrument in my place for the suppressing of that bloodthirsty enemy, and when I considered the bloody cruelty in murdering so many thousands of Protestants and innocent souls, that word was on my heart,' 'give her blood to drink for she is worthy,' and





‘sometimes we neither gave nor took quarter’.” One author says Henry Cromwell, who was appointed Governor of Ireland in 1656, gave such offense to the Puritans, and especially to the Anabaptists, that many of the officers sent in their resignations and among them was Col. Axtell. His resignation was dated November 28, 1656; however, he seems to have served again in Ireland under Ludlow and to have commanded one division of the Irish brigade.

Upon the return of Charles II in March, 1660, Col. Axtell joined General Lambert, who was endeavoring to raise a force to oppose the re-establishment of monarchy. But the tide had turned and Lambert's troops of horse, finding themselves unsupported by the people, quietly dispersed. The Colonel was soon apprehended and put on trial for treason. He defended himself with great skill and persistence, quoting from the statutes and pleading that what he had done had been as a soldier under orders from his superior whom he must obey on pain of death.

“I came to the trial of Charles I,” he said, “not voluntarily, but by command of the General, who had a commission from Parliament. I was no councillor, no contriver, I was no parliamentary man, none of the judges, none that sentenced, signed, none that had a hand in the execution, only that which is charged is that I was an officer in the army.” The Chief Justice complimented him on his manifest diligence in the study of law, but with his associates overruled his plea, deciding that the command of a superior officer constituted no





excuse, for the superior officer whom he obeyed was a traitor and all that joined him were traitors.

The result was certain from the first. The prisoner, finding his argument of no avail, said, "I leave all to the jury in whose hands I and my little ones and my family are left." The jury as well as the court could be trusted for their part, and so they brought in a verdict of guilty. The old account goes on to say, "returning from his trial at court to his prison with a cheerful countenance and his wife coming to him full of trouble, he said to her 'not a tear, wife, what hurt can they have done me, to send me sooner to heaven'."

"In prayer he laid all his comfort in the blood of the crucified Christ and upon the covenant of free grace, and did heartily desire pardon for all his judges, jury and those false witnesses." His daughter coming to him he said, "where hast thou been all this while, I thought thou hadst been ashamed of my chains but they that will not bear the cross shall not wear the crown." "Bid our friends," he said, "keep close to Christ and love the image of Christ wherever they see it, in the Presbyterian, Independent, Baptist, or others." Speaking of his faith, he said, "I believe in all the things written in the Old and New Testaments as the principles and doctrines of a believer's faith. I believe the blessed ordinances of Christ, that it is our duty to hear the word preached, to seek unto God in prayer and to perform family duties and walk in communion of the saints. For my part, I am a member of a congregation of which I judge to be the way of Christ which is the company of men





born again by His grace that walk in the way of Christ blameless and harmless."

His execution occurred at Tyburn, October 19, 1660. Francis Hacker was executed with him, and Colonel Axtell, at Hacker's request offered prayer for both. One portion of the prayer was filled with earnest pleadings for the people standing near, for the City of London, for the magistrates and hangman and for the Chief Magistrate of the nation. The prayer was offered while he stood in the chief hangman's cart with a rope around his neck. After it was all over, no one was found to put forward the horse, the cartman saying, "that he would lose both the cart and the horse before he would have a hand in hanging such a man." The great crowd of spectators behaved civilly. Only two cried out, "hang them, hang the rogues, traitors, murderers," whereupon a man desired them to be civil, and they were silent and gave attention to Col. Axtell's speech and prayer at which they were very much affected.



ESIDES the daughter already mentioned, the Colonel had a young son and possibly other children. The son was probably the William Axtell of Jamaica, who is mentioned in 1683. The next in this line is a Daniel Axtell, (supposed to be a son of the above mentioned William) who acquired a large fortune in trade in Jamaica; and, visiting New Jersey, purchased a great tract of land in Somerset County, extending from the east line of Bedminster tp. to Lamington River, north of the North Branch of the Raritan. The following quotation from





(Crumrine 1882) the History of Washington County, Pa., seems to coincide in part at least: "Maj. Daniel Axtell was the original purchaser of land acquired by 'East and West Jersey' in 1682. About the year 1740, he purchased 2,000 acres in what is now Bedminster tp., Somerset County, N. J. He died within the next ten years and his son William came into possession; he sold a part in 1750 and a part in 1760. This William Axtell was born in Jamaica, W.I., about 1720. He came to New Jersey about 1746 to dispose of some of his holdings and he soon found a place in high society in New York City. Winning the affections of a daughter of Abraham DePeyster, he ran away with and married her. He was known as "William the Gay". He lived in a fine mansion on Broadway as well as maintaining a country seat in Flatbush, Long Island. From the time of his marriage, he was both politically and socially prominent in city life.

As the Revolution approached, he was at first favorable to the colonial party, but when the struggle finally opened he took sides with the mother country. He was a member of the council in 1776, and when examined by the Whig committee in that year he stated the bulk of his property was in England and the West Indies. In reporting his case to the Provincial Congress, the committee remarked that they believed him to be a gentleman of high honor and integrity. He became a Tory, and was commissioned Colonel of a corps of loyalists by Sir William Howe. In 1793, his furniture was confiscated and sold at auction in New York. He went to England and was indemnified for his





losses by the British Government. He died at Beaumont Cottage, Surrey, in 1795, aged 75. He left no issue, but while in New York adopted a daughter, Miss Shipton, a relative, who married Maj. Giles of the Continental Army. (See Sabines American Loyalists.)

In 1678, another Daniel Axtell, probably a son of Col. Daniel, left England in company with many others of Puritanic tendencies on account of the oppression and indignities to which they were subjected by the law and government of the country. August 13, 1678, before leaving England, he made a will in which he remembers his children: Sibella, Sibyl, Daniel, Mary, Holland, Rebecca, Elizabeth and Ann. Of these, only one of age, he made his wife, "Rebeckah" "his full and whole executrix," Henry Danvers, Esq. and William Pennington, his friends, were to assist his wife "in gathering in the estate from abroad and advising and helping her disposing of it when at home". (N. E. His. & Gen. Rec. Vol. 44, p52). A grant of 3,000 acres in South Carolina was made to him December 13, 1680. His son started for South Carolina about that time, but died on the way over and was buried at sea. The father appears at that date to have been in England, but later was again in South Carolina in the movement to establish a colony of which he was one of the leaders.



JOHN Locke, the celebrated philosopher, drew up a form of government for the proprietors called "The Grand Model". It was a creation struck from the brain of an idealist, with as little fitness for actual life as can be imagined. One of the chief orders of no-





bility was to consist of Landgraves, and one of the twelve who held this position was Daniel Axtell. Hence, his widow was called "Lady Axtell". He died in 1686, and his son Holland became Landgrave in his place. The latter died in 1692, and with him the hopes of continuing the name perished in South Carolina. Lady Axtell, however, and several of her daughters still survived. One of them, Elizabeth, married Joseph Blake, the great English Admiral and naval warrior of Cromwell's time. Rebecca married John Moore, who later moved to Philadelphia and became Attorney-General and King's collector of Pennsylvania. She died in Moore's Hall, Philadelphia, December 21, 1749.

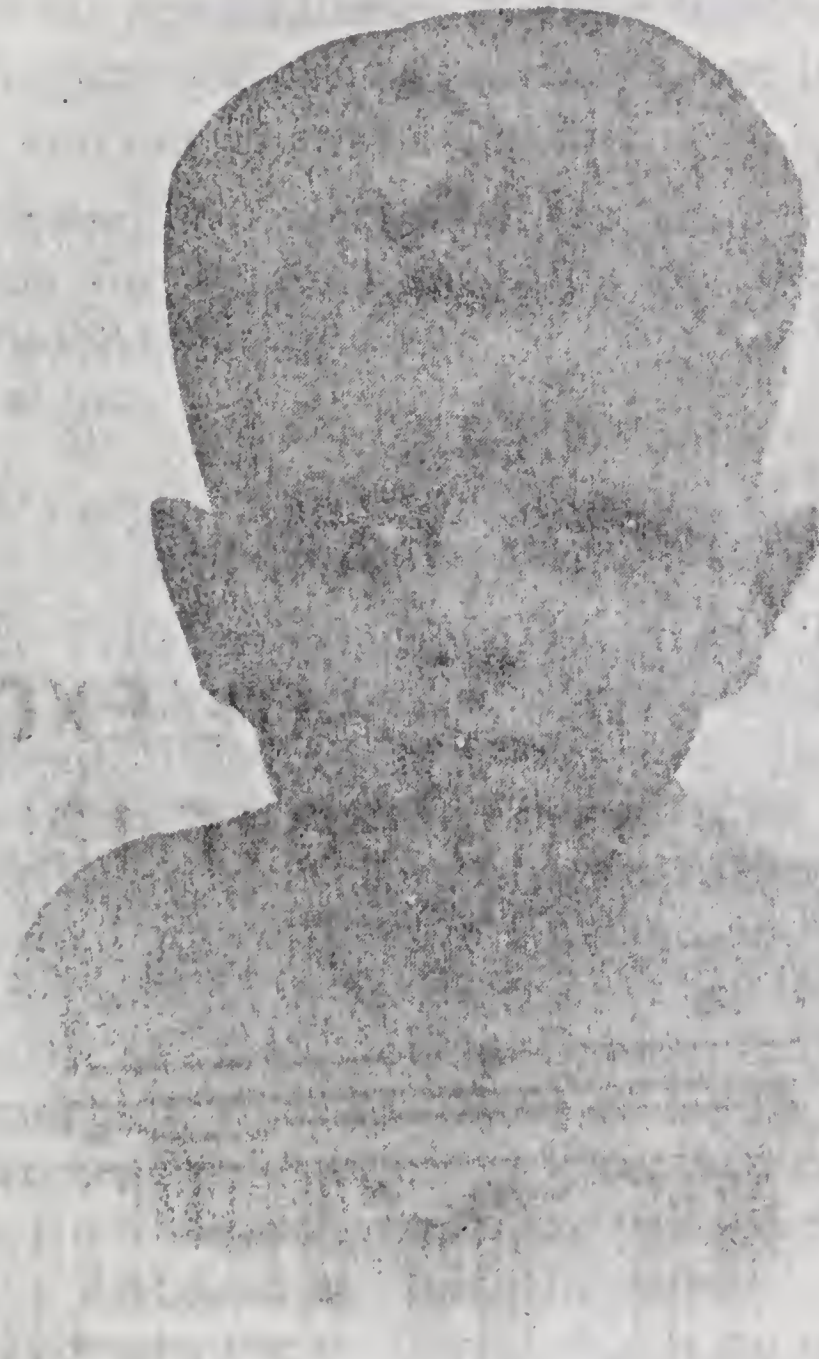
When Daniel Axtell (9) of Massachusetts went to South Carolina, he settled near Lady Axtell on Ashley River. He operated a saw mill of which he was part owner, and had various transactions with her which are still on record in an old account book. In 1720 she made her will, remembering him as her kinsman, thus establishing the relationship.

William Axtell of Dunstable, England, wrote in 1878, "There is no doubt that Thomas Axtell, progenitor of the Axtell family in America, and Daniel Axtell, the regicide, were brothers to my progenitor, Samuel, as appears to have the same father, viz. William." Descendants of this William of Dunstable, England, are at present living in the vicinity of Boston, Mass.

Record has been found in England of a will of one Nathaniel Axtell of Hertfordshire, dated August 17, 1639, which states his intentions of going to







DANIEL AXTELL  
b. May 5, 1934 at Little Britain, N. Y.



New England and names his brothers, Thomas and Daniel, and three sisters, Joane, Ann and Sarah. This seems to coincide with the early record of New Haven, Connecticut. In 1639 or 1640 he decided to return to England, going to Boston to embark, died while awaiting sailing, and the court at New Haven settled his estate. This gives rise to the oft-repeated story of three brothers coming to America, one in Massachusetts, one in Connecticut, and one in South Carolina.

Among the passengers of the barque "Globe" of London for Virginia in 1636, was the name of Thomas Axtell, aged 35. We find no further record of him.



## The First Generation

1. THOMAS, son of William and Thomasine Axtell, was baptised in St. Peter's Church, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, England, January 26, 1619 (N. S.) His father died in 1638. He married Mary . . . . . probably in 1638; two children were born to them in England and their baptism is recorded in St. Peter's. They left England as early as 1643, for in October of that year Thomas purchased five acres of land in Sudbury, Massachusetts, of Edmond Rice, who himself had come from Berkhamstead five years earlier. This land is described as "lying in ye south part of ye town-bounds, the southwest side lying to the commons and joined to the land of Edmond Rice, southward and northward to the highway leading from Sudbury to Mr. Dunston's farm." This is what is now Wayland near "The Five Paths." Thomas took the oath of fidelity July 8, 1645. He died in March, 1646, and was buried the 8th of that







month. The following is the inventory of Thomas Axtell of Sudbury, lately deceased:

Imprimi;

His land and house . . . . . 8£ 10s.

Cattle . . . . . 8£ 10s.

Wearing apparel and bedding  
with his arms . . . . . 10£

Brass and pewter . . . . . 5£

Edmond Rice bought back the land, six acres, and dwelling house. This was near the Spring.

The story told in those words is short, indeed, but we are permitted to see what it stands for. The young Englishman was a soldier or at least trained to arms, he was of strong Puritanical leanings, like his brother Daniel the regicide, with his wife and two little ones he followed his neighbor across the sea to make his home in a frontier settlement in New England. Scarcely had he set up his roof-tree in the wilderness when hardships and exposure struck him down.

With his last breath he leaves his little all for the helpless group about his death bed. Mary, the widow of Thomas, appears to have married John Maynard, a widower with a boy of eight, on June 16, 1646.

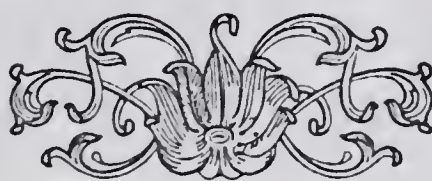
*Children of Thomas and Mary:*

2. Mary, christened September 25, 1639, in Berkhamstead, England. She married John Goodnow, September 19, 1658 and died April 14, 1704. To them eleven children were born.

3. Henry, chr. October 15, 1641, in Berkhamstead, England.



4. Lydia (or Mary) The Sudbury Vital Records give both names on the same date, born June 1, 1644. In his will, John Maynard speaks of his daughter Lydia, wife of John Moore, and as there is no record of any other Lydia in his family, it seems probable that the daughter of his wife by her first husband, Thomas Axtell, is intended.









AN ANTELL HOME—1736-1943





## Author's Comment



In presenting this genealogical and biographical history of the Axtell family I wish to say that but few realize the vast amount of labor and no small expense necessary for its accomplishment, the hundreds and hundreds of letters, the hours spent in study of the musty old records of the early generations, in checking of dates, in following down generation after generation in all its branches and compiling the data in a comprehensive manner, the writing and re-writing of the copy as additional information was received, the preparing of the final copy with the proof-reading and corrections.

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I first became interested in the Axtell genealogy in general while tracing my own lineage, finding so little to build on, and thought a complete record should be made. A search of the genealogical sections of the big libraries of New England, the early home of the family, produced but little. Using this little as a starting point I followed down to the present as well as traced back to the beginning.

I am indebted in its preparation to Ephraim S. Axtell for the record of Maj. Henry Axtell and his descendants, Rev. Seth J. Axtell for his booklet of the first five generations in America as well as some of the English background, to Mrs. Sarah L. (Axtell) Hall for the manuscript of her father, Luther M. Axtell, to H. H. Mundy as well as numerous booklets and manuscripts generously loaned, also to the fine co-operation of the individual members of the family at large, particularly to the Rev. Seth J. Axtell, who compiled much data down to 1900.

Carson A. Axtell.

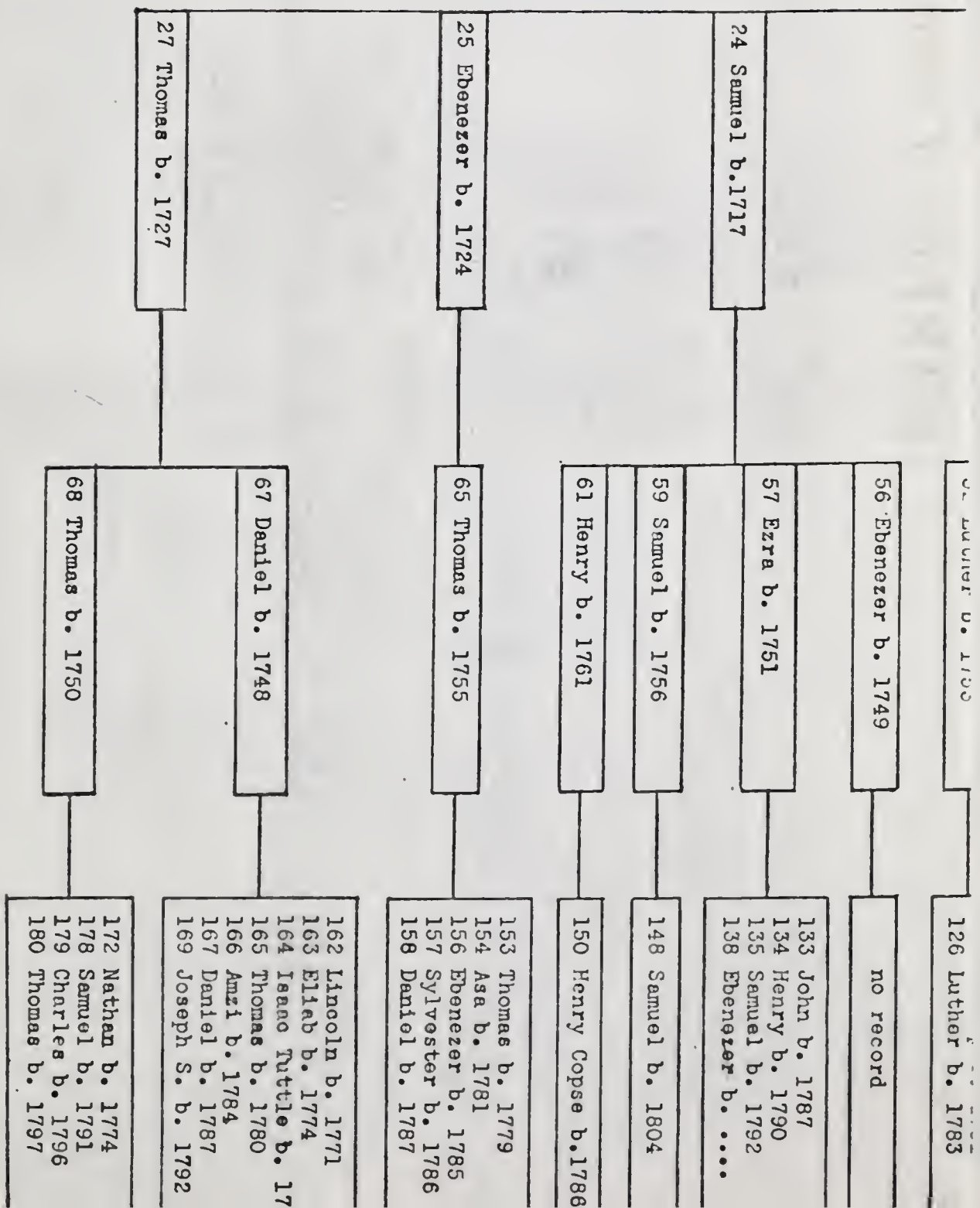


# CHART A

## AXTELL GENEALOGY

Compiled by  
CARSON R. AXTELL  
FAIRHAVEN, MASS.

9 Daniel

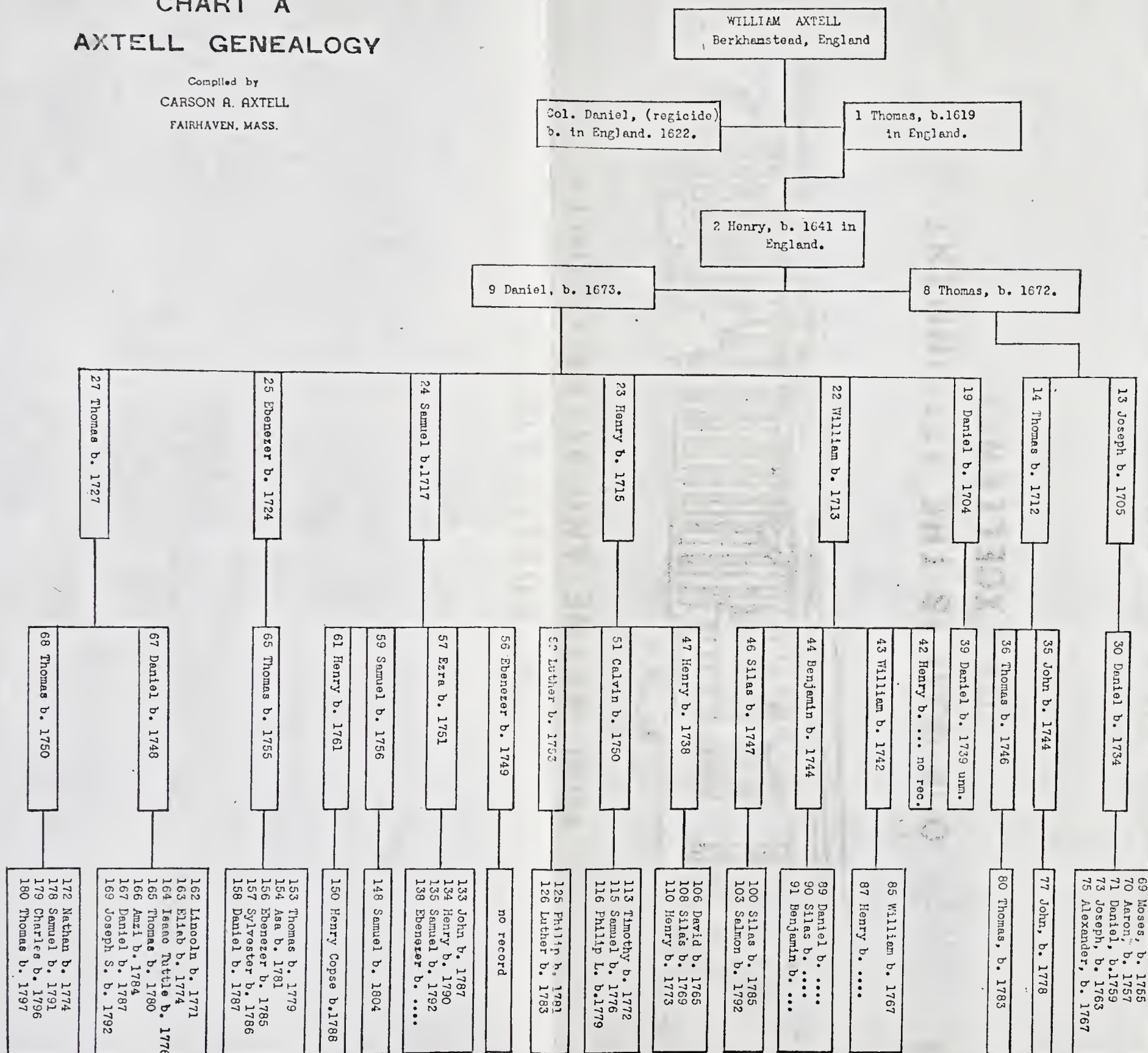




# CHART A

## AXTELL GENEALOGY

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*In addition to the committee, the following have placed orders for this "Tercentenary" up to the time of going to press:*



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Mrs. Minard Peacock .....	Martville, N. Y.
Mrs. Clara Ludwick .....	Fall River, Kansas
Harold E. Axtell.....	61-11 79th St., Elmhurst, N. Y.
Roger E. Axtell.....	91-12 78th St., Woodhaven, N. Y.
Mrs. Edward Tracy .....	17 East 194th St., Euclid, Ohio
Harold J. Cass .....	1864 E. 82nd St., Cleveland, 3, Ohio
Fred S. Axtell .....	St. Helens, Oregon
Harry W. Axtel.....	Kennewick, Wash.
Mrs. Eileen A. Rosenfelt .....	White Swan, Wash.
Warren F. Axtell .....	4330 Lowell Ave., Chicago, 41, Ill.
Mrs. H. Manning Bross .....	French Rd. West, St. Johns, Mich.
Alva R. Axtell .....	1034½ N. Serrano Ave., Hollywood, 27, Calif.
Mrs. Lulu R. Nordeen .....	903 So. 3rd St., Norfolk, Neb.
Mrs. Ida Axtell Ziegel .....	312 West St. Louis St., Nashville, Ill.
H. I. Axtell .....	618 Sherman Ave., Peoria, Ill.
Mrs. Grace Axtell Munn .....	Sheldon-Munn Hotel, Ames, Iowa
Herbert L. Axtell.....	Deposit, N. Y.
Kenneth M. Axtell.....	Deposit, N. Y.
Carrel O. Sparhawk.....	North Scituate, Rhode Island
Lois Axtell.....	2122 Portland Ave., So., Minneapolis, Minn.
Mrs. Anton Jensen .....	1190 Seward, Detroit, 2, Mich.
Miss Annie D. Axtell .....	229 Clifford Ct., Madison, Wis.
Mrs. George D. Hanna .....	415 W. 16th St. Newton, Kansas
Mrs. Florence A. Hitchcock .....	Bainbridge, N. Y.
Foy L. Axtell .....	412 West 9th St., Auburn, Ind.
Mrs. Clara May King .....	Merrickville, N.Y.
Clifford W. Axtell .....	Thermopolis, Wyo.
Mrs. Oden Sheets .....	Kirklin, Ind.
Howell B. Axtell .....	171 Forest Ave., Verona, N. J.
Loveridge H. Axtell .....	R. 2, Corvallis, Ore.
Lucien V. Axtell .....	146-06 Georgia Road, Flushing, N. Y.























